

Notified in AAOs dated  
30th April, 1951.

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**INFANTRY TRAINING**

**VOLUME I**

**INFANTRY PLATOON WEAPONS**

**PAMPHLET No. 4 (AUSTRALIA)**

**Machine Carbines**

**(All Arms)**

**OWEN Machine Carbine**

**AUSTEN Machine Carbine**

**1949**

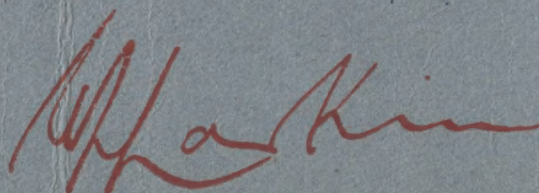
(This pamphlet supersedes SAT Vol 1, Pam No. 15 Sub Machine  
Guns (Austen-Owen-Thompson) Australia 1943.)



Army Headquarters,  
Melbourne,

1/4/51.

Issued by Command of the Military Board

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "A. H. Kin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "A" and "K".

Secretary to the Military Board.

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(This pamphlet supersedes all previous editions.)

time permits and at longer ranges, it should be aimed and fired from the shoulder. Observation of strike of bullets is necessary whichever method is used.

11. Ammunition is 9-mm rimless type. Most makes of foreign pistol and machine carbine ammunition of this calibre can be used. Realising that the round is essentially a pistol cartridge, the weapon cannot be regarded as a light machine gun or automatic rifle. If this is appreciated, the carbine will not be used on tasks for which it is neither suited nor designed.

### **Mechanism**

12. Both machine carbines are automatic weapons operated by the force of recoil of the fired case acting on the face of the breech bolt and driving it to the rear. This compresses a return spring which will force the bolt forward to fire another round unless the bolt is held back by a sear.

13. Instructors must realise that a detailed study of mechanism is NOT necessary to attain the object set out in para 3 above.

### **Safety And Care**

14. At the start of each lesson ,the instructor will inspect weapons and equipment used to ensure that weapons are not loaded and that there is no live ammunition in equipment. The importance of the safety aspect will be impressed on those under instruction.

15. When live ammunition is used for practice in magazine filling, it must be checked carefully both before and after the lessons and **MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES**. Machine carbines should be stacked at least 20 feet away during practice in magazine filling.

16. Except when in contact with the enemy or engaging a target, the machine carbine must be carried "safely," i.e., with chamber empty and safety device applied.

17. Except when using ball ammunition and when a flannelette ~~pad is inserted~~ in the breech for instructional purposes, the moving parts **must** be eased forward under control. This will prevent damage to bolt and breech faces.

18. Although magazines will hold the number of rounds stated, it is undesirable to keep them filled to this capacity for long periods. When not in contact with the enemy, magazines should be filled to three-quarters capacity and ammunition required to complete filling kept readily accessible.

Whenever possible, magazines should be emptied and cleaned. This allows the spring to relax and ensures that ammunition and interior of magazine are kept in good condition.



## PART I — 9MM OWEN MACHINE CARBINE MARK 2/3

### LESSON 1

## DESCRIPTION, MAGAZINE FILLING, LOADING AND UNLOADING

### Instructor's Notes

Parts will be named as dealt with (see PLATES 1 & 2)

**Stores:** Machine carbines (one per man if available)  
Magazines } one per man  
Bayonets }  
Ball cartridges (10 per man)  
Groundsheets

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions with particular attention to para 15, GENERAL.

### Description

#### 1. Characteristics:

##### (a) Explain briefly:

(i) Paras 8-11, GENERAL.

(ii) Name of weapon and calibre.

Weight — approx. 9½ lbs. without bayonet

Method of operation (para 12, GENERAL)

(b) Confirm by questions.

#### 2. Sights:

Explain that the machine carbine is fitted with a fixed aperture backsight for ranges up to 100 yards. The rule of aiming is as for the LMG.

#### Bayonet:

(a) Explain that the machine carbine is now fitted with a bayonet standard similar to that on the rifle to take either the No. 1 Mark 2 or No. 1 (Aust.) Mark 1 Bayonet.

(b) Demonstrate method of fixing bayonet and practice squad.

### Magazine Filling

#### 4. Explain and demonstrate:

The magazine will hold 33 rounds but, to ensure that there is no trouble with feeding, it is usually filled with 32.

To fill the magazine, hold it in the left hand and place a cartridge on the platform, bullet end at large opening. Press down until cartridge slips under the curved lip. Continue until magazine has been filled with the required number of rounds. Count the rounds and ensure that they are kept clean.

To empty the magazine, strip each round in turn from magazine with thumb and forefinger. If the platform tends to stick or jam, strip and clean thoroughly. When assembling, ensure that platform is replaced in its correct position.

5. Practice squad. To save time, ten rounds per man are sufficient at this stage.

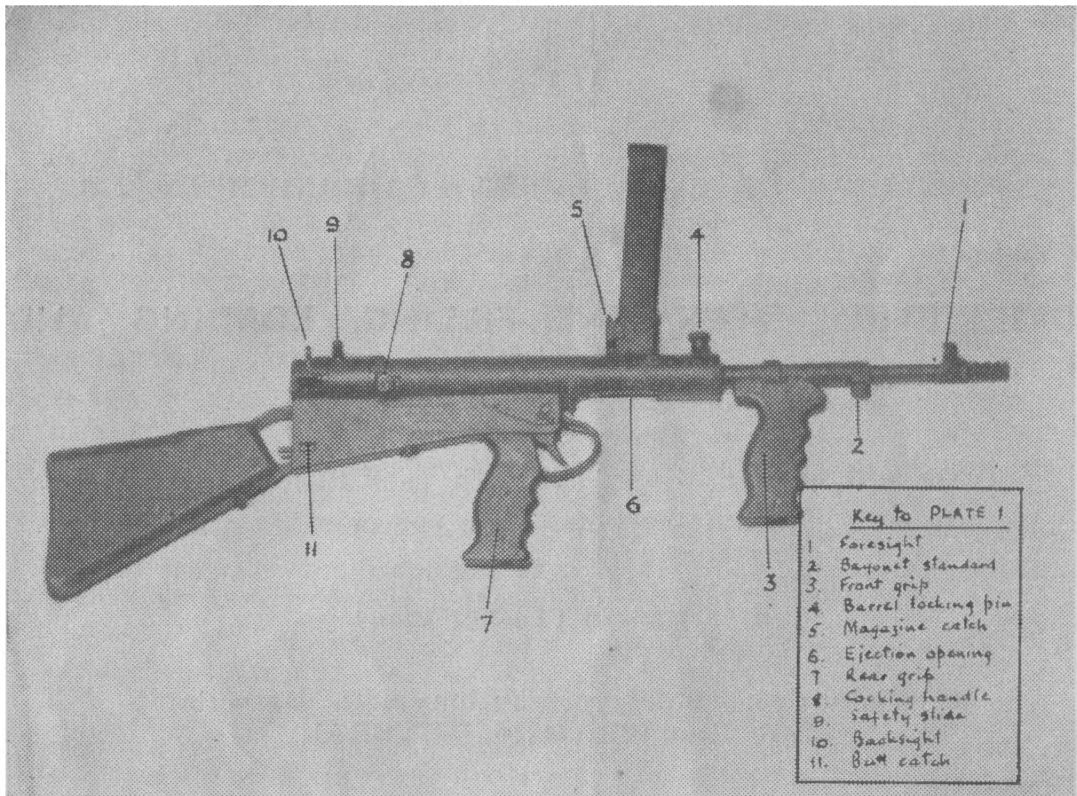


Plate 1 — Owen Machine Carbine Mark 2/3 (Right Side).

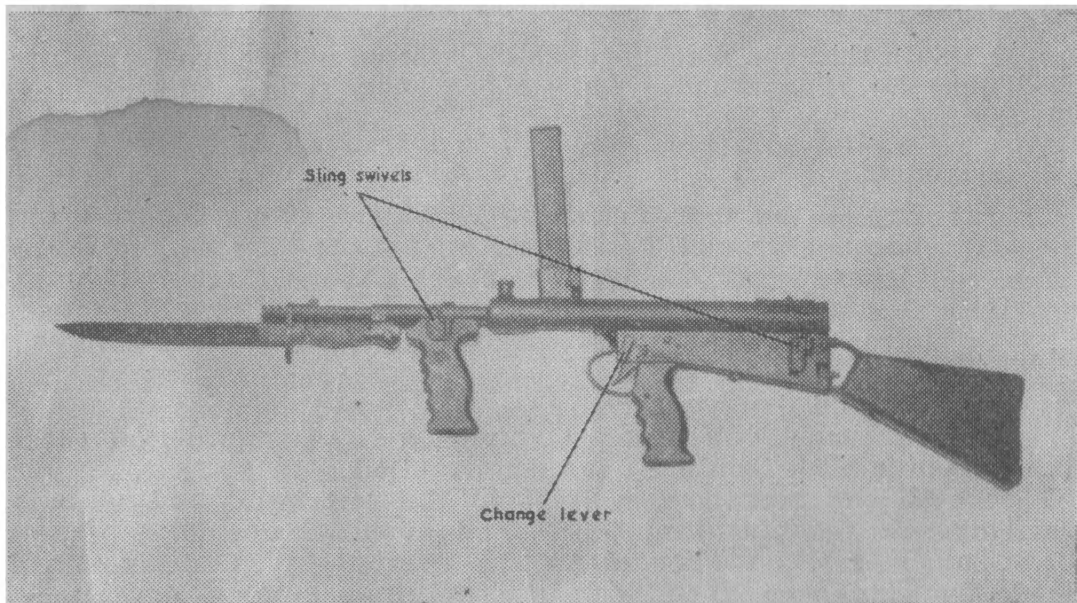


Plate 2 — Owen Machine Carbine Mark 2/3 with bayonet fixed (Left Side).

## **Loading and Unloading**

6. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating (empty magazine on carbine):

**(a) To load:**

Ensure that change lever is fully forward and that safety slide is disengaged.

Hold the carbine with the right hand at the rear grip, forefinger outside the trigger guard, butt under the arm and muzzle pointing downward at an angle of 45 degrees. Hold the magazine upright in the left hand, bullets pointing forward. Insert into magazine holder and press down until it engages. The stop on rear of magazine should be in contact with top of holder and magazine held by the catch.

Slide the open left hand along the right side of the body of the carbine and, with a quick rearward movement, cock the weapon.

Apply the safety slide by rotating it to the right.

**(b) Carriage:**

The carbine can be carried:—

(i) Slung over the shoulder.

(ii) At the trail, like a rifle.

(iii) In front of the body with the sling around the neck.

**(c) Ready position:**

When the enemy is likely to be met, bring the weapon close in to the right side, butt under arm and barrel pointing to the front. Disengage safety slide by rotating it to the left until it is clear of cocking handle. Grasp the front grip with the left hand and put the right forefinger on the trigger.

**(d) To unload:**

Return to the loading position. Disengage safety slide and recock. Remove the magazine by grasping it with the left hand and pressing the catch with the lower part of the palm. Replace it in the equipment.

Place the left hand against the cocking handle as in loading, press the trigger and allow the working parts to go forward under control. Recock and repeat this action.

7. Practice squad on words of command, "LOAD," "SLUNG POSITION" etc., "READY," "UNLOAD."

**8. Notes:**

(a) If the working parts have been eased forward with a round in the chamber and the safety slide disengaged, a jerk or knock may cause the round to be fired. The carbine must NEVER be carried or allowed to remain in this condition.

(b) There are two types of magazine in service. In the early type, when the magazine is empty the platform stops the bolt in its forward movement, causing the cocking handle to stop slightly forward of the cocked position. Removing the magazine allows movement of the cocking handle to the fully forward position.

The later type has a modified platform which does not stop forward movement of the bolt when empty.

## LESSON 2

### FIRING AND IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Stores:** Machine carbines with slings } one per man  
Magazines } if available.  
Three Fig. 2 targets

**Preparation:** A piece of flannelette (4 x 4 inches) folded twice to form a square will be inserted into the body of each carbine and pressed over the breech.

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions.

**Revision:** Lesson 1 (Loading, ready position, unloading).

#### Firing Positions

1. Explain:

- (a) There are two positions for firing the carbine:—
  - (i) From the shoulder using the sights.
  - (ii) From the waist by sense of direction.
- (b) The position used will depend on the situation. Fire from the waist only when speed is vital; if time permits, fire from the shoulder using the sights. In extreme emergency, fire can be applied from the waist on the move but, if it is possible to halt momentarily, greater accuracy will result.

#### Types Of Fire

2. Explain and demonstrate:

- (a) The type of fire can be selected by positioning the change lever. If it is pressed fully forward, the carbine will produce bursts or automatic fire; if fully back, it will fire single shots.
- (b) With experience, single shots can be fired with the change lever set at "automatic" by pressing the trigger for a limited travel, thus enabling it to be left permanently ~~at this position.~~

When in contact with the enemy, the change lever should always be set at "automatic," the firer producing single shots until the necessity or opportunity for automatic fire presents itself. The trigger is then pressed for the limit of its travel. Bursts should be of two or three rounds only.

3. Practice squad in setting change lever.

#### Firing

4. **Firing from the shoulder using the sights:** (see PLATE 3.)

- (a) Explain and demonstrate from ready position:

The butt is brought firmly into the shoulder and, if the correct grip is maintained with both hands, the elbows come naturally into a suitable and comfortable position. The enemy should be faced squarely. Maximum speed in engaging a succession of targets will be obtained by swinging the body from the waist.

Aim at the centre of the target and fire single shots or short bursts depending on the situation.

When the enemy has been dealt with, continue the advance at the ready position. If the enemy is not likely to





Plate 3 — Firing from the shoulder using the sights.



Plate 4 — Firing from the waist by sense of direction (Side View).



Plate 4A — Firing from the waist by sense of direction (Front View).





Plate 4B — Firing from the waist by sense of Direction.

appear again, engage the safety slide. In either case, change the magazine for a full one if necessary.

- (b) Practice squad at the halt and on the move, emphasizing the need for speed into action. Words of command are: "LOAD," "READY," "FIRE," "ADVANCE," etc. Recock each time after firing.

**5. Firing from the waist by sense of direction: (See PLATES 4, 4A & 4B.)**

- (a) Explain and demonstrate from ready position:  
Correct holding will have been taken up in the ready position. The position of the body should be square to the front and balanced evenly on both feet. Swing the body from the waist when engaging a succession of targets.  
The firer must concentrate on the centre of the target and, on firing, attempt to observe the strike of his shots and make any necessary correction to the alignment of the barrel.
- (b) Practice squad at the halt and on the move. Words of command are: "LOAD," "READY," "TARGET RIGHT," etc., "FIRE," "MISS LOW," etc., "ADVANCE." During practice, the instructor must check the direction in which barrels are pointing.

**6. Firing with bayonet fixed and thrusting:**

Explain:

Firing with bayonet fixed has no appreciable effect on the position of shots on the target up to 100 yards.

When making a thrust with the bayonet, holding is the same as in ready position. Position of body and actions are the same as with the rifle.

**Immediate Action**

**7. Explain:**

The simple mechanism and construction of the carbine, combined with correct handling and maintenance tend to make stoppages rare and easily adjusted.

**8. Explain and demonstrate, using an empty magazine on the carbine:**

- (a) If the carbine stops firing, recock, change magazine and continue firing. This will cater for the majority of stoppages which are caused by an empty magazine or an interruption in the supply of rounds from the magazine.
- (b) If the carbine still does not fire, recock, remove magazine and examine the bolt and breech faces. Remove any obstruction found, eg., a round (by firing) or a loose cap (by shaking out), replace magazine and continue firing. Normally, it will be found that removing the magazine will cause the obstruction to fall clear.

**9. Practice squad, varying the order of stoppages as progress is made.**

## LESSON 3

# STRIPPING AND ASSEMBLING, CLEANING

### Instructor's Notes

**Stores:** Machine carbines  
Magazines  
Pullthroughs  
Flannelette  
Gauze  
Oil

} one per man if available

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions.

Name main parts as they are stripped. (See Plate 5.)

### Stripping And Assembling

1. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:—

#### (a) Stripping:

Before any part is stripped and again after assembly, the carbine will be cocked and working parts eased forward under control.

Place the butt under the right armpit, hold the front grip with the left hand and, grasping the cocking handle catch with the right hand, withdraw it slightly and rotate it until it rests on the shelf of the cocking handle. It is only necessary to rotate it sufficiently for the corner of the catch to rest on the shelf. If it is turned at right angles, there is a possibility that the cocking handle will fall into the body and cause delay.

Grasp the barrel locking pin with the right hand and pull it out as far as it will go. Push the barrel forward and the bolt will follow, being pushed forward by the return spring. As the barrel leaves the body, release the locking pin which will prevent the bolt falling out of the body. Place the barrel in a convenient place.

Raise the barrel locking pin again with the right hand and catch the bolt with the left hand as it slides out of the body. Release the locking pin.

Should the barrel locking pin appear to be tight, it may be due to the grasp on the front grip jamming it. To overcome this, move the front grip slightly from side to side while pulling up on the locking pin.

To remove the butt, press the butt catch to the left and withdraw from the body.

The following parts will now have been stripped:—

Barrel  
Bolt Assembly  
Butt  
Body

No further stripping will be done except by unit armourer.

#### (b) Assembling:

Replace the butt by sliding it into the body. Raise the barrel locking pin and, with the left hand, slide the bolt assembly into the body ensuring that it is in the correct



position. Release the locking pin which will prevent the bolt from falling out.

Hold up the locking pin and insert the barrel, ensuring that the nose of the extractor registers with the extractor slot on the breech face; push the barrel fully in, twisting it from side to side until the locking pin snaps into position.

Slide the cocking handle forward over the cocking bolt and release the cocking catch from the shelf. Move the cocking handle slightly back until the cocking catch engages, i.e., drops down.

**(c) To remove barrel only:**

The following procedure will be adopted if, for any reason, it is desired to remove the barrel alone:—

- (i) Cock the action.
- (ii) Engage safety slide.
- (iii) Remove magazine.
- (iv) Remove barrel.

To assemble, insert barrel as before but with muzzle pointing slightly upward, using the back of the lead-in platform to push out the barrel locking pin. When the barrel is fully in, rotate it from side to side by the front grip until the locking pin snaps home.

**Note** — Under NO circumstances is the trigger to be pressed with carbine cocked and barrel removed.

**2. Practice squad.**

**Stripping The Magazine**

**3. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:**

**(a) To strip:**

Press in the stud on the bottom plate and ~~slide out the~~ plate, controlling the spring as it comes out. Remove spring and platform.

**(b) To assemble:**

Replace the platform and spring and slide on the bottom plate until the stud engages in the hole in the plate. A slight tap with the hand will assist this action.

**4. Practice squad.**

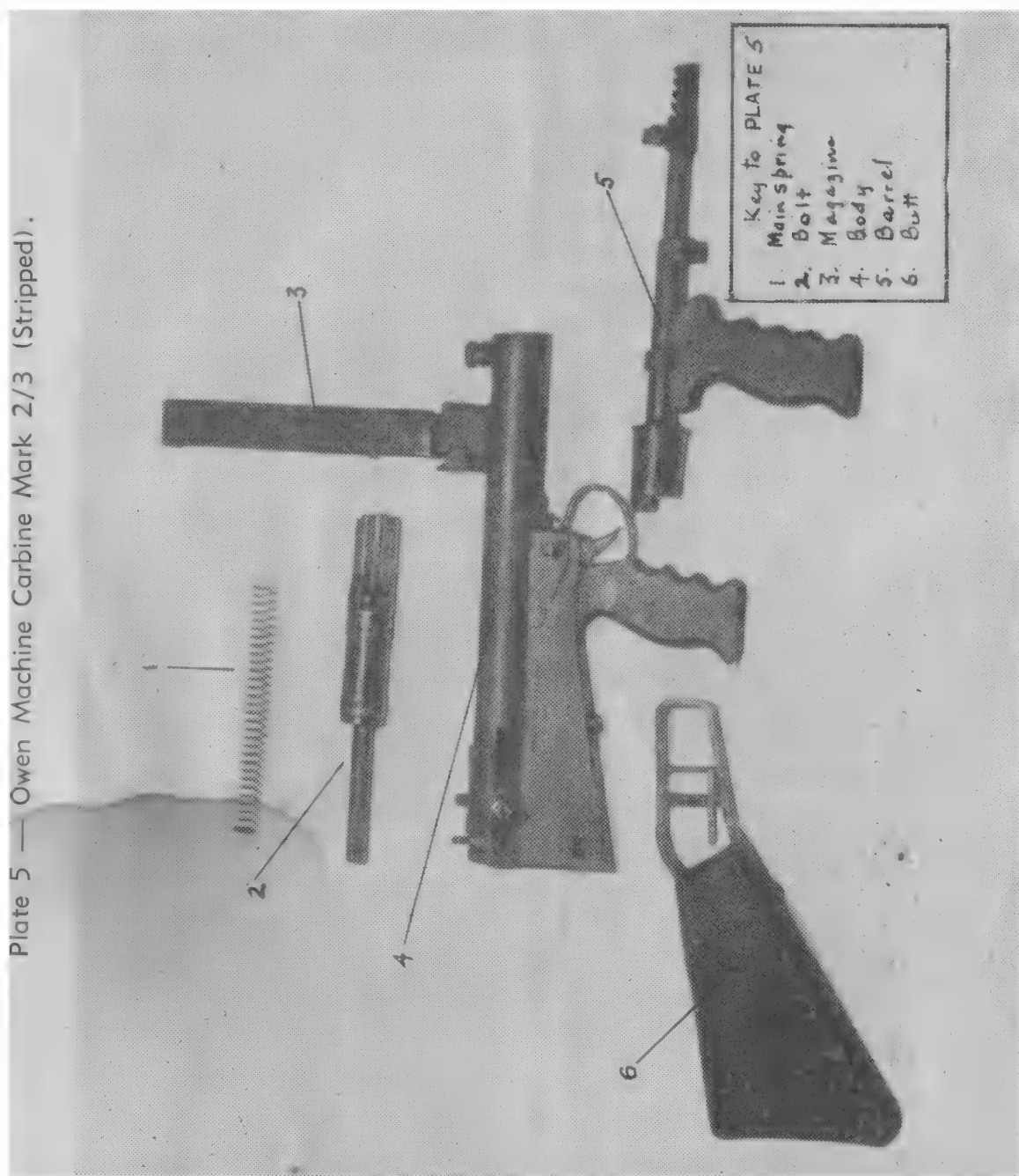
**Cleaning**

**5. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:**

Strip the carbine as taught. Open the butt trap and remove the pullthrough and oil bottle. Clean the bore, using pullthrough and flannelette (4 x 3 inches). Wire gauze should only be used when absolutely necessary. When the bore is clean, oil it using flannelette (4 x 3 inches).

Clean and oil the chamber, using the weight of the pull-through or a stick with flannelette wrapped round it.

Plate 5 — Owen Machine Carbine Mark 2/3 (Stripped).



Clean and oil thoroughly the remaining parts, paying particular attention to:—

Face of bolt  
Inside of body  
Magazine holder  
Surface of barrel lead in

Before firing, ensure that the bore, body and bolt are free from oil. The carbine will operate more satisfactorily in this state, particularly in dusty conditions. Should it be necessary to keep the carbine continuously ready for action, the bore, body and bolt will require occasional attention with an oily rag, then wiped dry. This will prevent the formation of rust.

Clean magazines with oily rag; then use a dry rag on platform and interior. Test magazines in magazine holder for fit and security.

6. Practice squad.

7. Notes:

- (a) When issued from store, the carbine will be liberally covered with a protective coat of grease. The trigger gear is also packed with a special grease, but this must NOT be disturbed as it acts as a permanent protection against damage by rain or immersion.

For satisfactory operation, however, it is necessary to remove protective grease from the barrel, bolt and body tube, the cocking handle cavity and, above all, from the interior of magazines before use. In the latter case, it may be necessary to use petrol or kerosene to remove effectively all grease.

- (b) The use of anti-corrosive oil (Oil "A") in the bore after firing will reduce the necessity for continual cleaning. This oil should also be applied to the face of the bolt after firing.

**Action During And After Gas Attack**

8. Explain:

(a) **During gas attack:**

Keep carbine well oiled and move working parts at frequent intervals.

(b) **After gas attack:**

If splashed with nerve or blister gas, the carbine must be decontaminated before cleaning as follows:—

Rub ointment into hands. Strip the carbine and remove gross contamination with a damp swab or cotton waste. If petrol or paraffin is available, swab down the metal portions. If neither is available, apply ointment and wipe off after 20 minutes. Oil the carbine thoroughly and apply ointment to hands.

9. Question squad.





## **PART II — 9MM AUSTEN MACHINE CARBINE MARK 1**

### **LESSON 1**

## **DESCRIPTION, MAGAZINE FILLING, LOADING AND UNLOADING**

### **Instructor's Notes**

Parts will be named as dealt with (see PLATES 6 & 7.)

**Stores:** Machine carbines (one per man if available).

Magazines (one per man).

Ball cartridges (10 per man).

Magazine fillers (one per man).

Groundsheets.

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions with particular attention to para 15, GENERAL.

### **Description**

#### **1. Characteristics:**

Explain briefly:

(i) Paras 8 - 11, GENERAL.

(ii) Name of weapon and calibre.

Weight — approx. 8½ lb.

Method of operation (para 12, GENERAL).

(b) Confirm by questions.

#### **2. Sights:**

Explain that the machine carbine is fitted with a fixed aperture backsight for ranges up to 100 yards. The rule of aiming is as for the LMG.

### **Magazine Filling**

#### **3. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:**

The magazine holds 28 rounds. The magazine spring is too powerful to enable filling to be done quickly by hand; a filler is provided.

To fill the magazine, place the filler on the magazine and press down until the catch engages in the recess of the magazine body. Hold the magazine in one hand, the groove away from the body. Place the forefinger in the loop of the filler handle, thumb on the forward knuckle, second and third fingers in the recesses provided.

Press down the lever to depress the magazine platform. Insert a round base first under the nose of the lever; raise the lever quickly up and down to guide the round into place. Repeat these actions until the magazine is full, making certain that each round is guided into place under the lips. Count the rounds and ensure that they are kept clean.

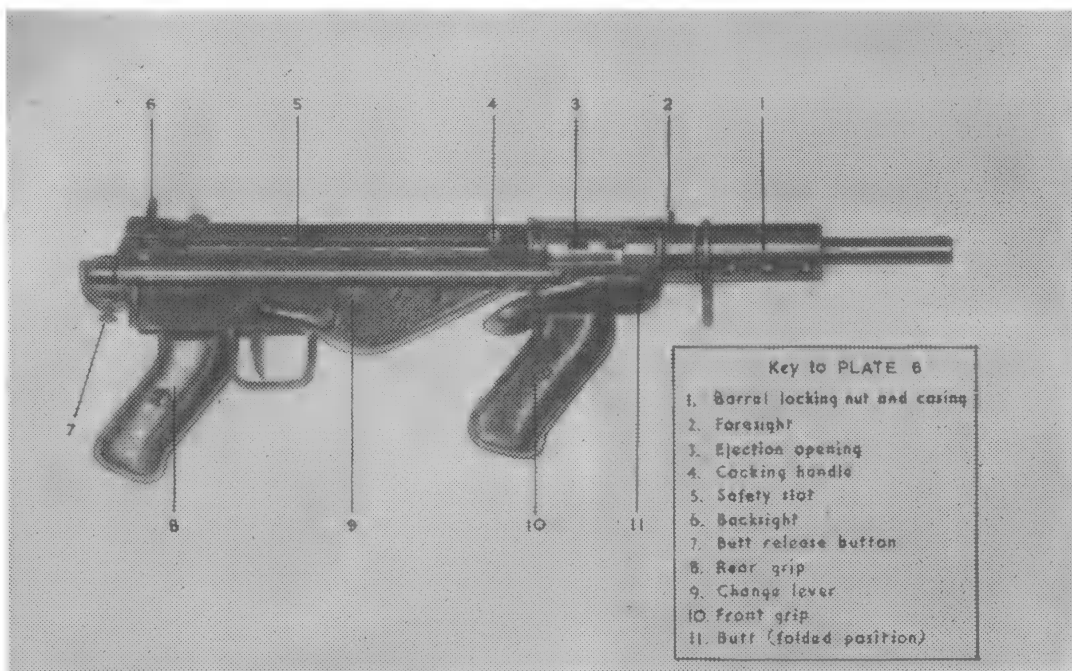


Plate 6 — Austen Machine Carbine Mark 1 (Right Side).

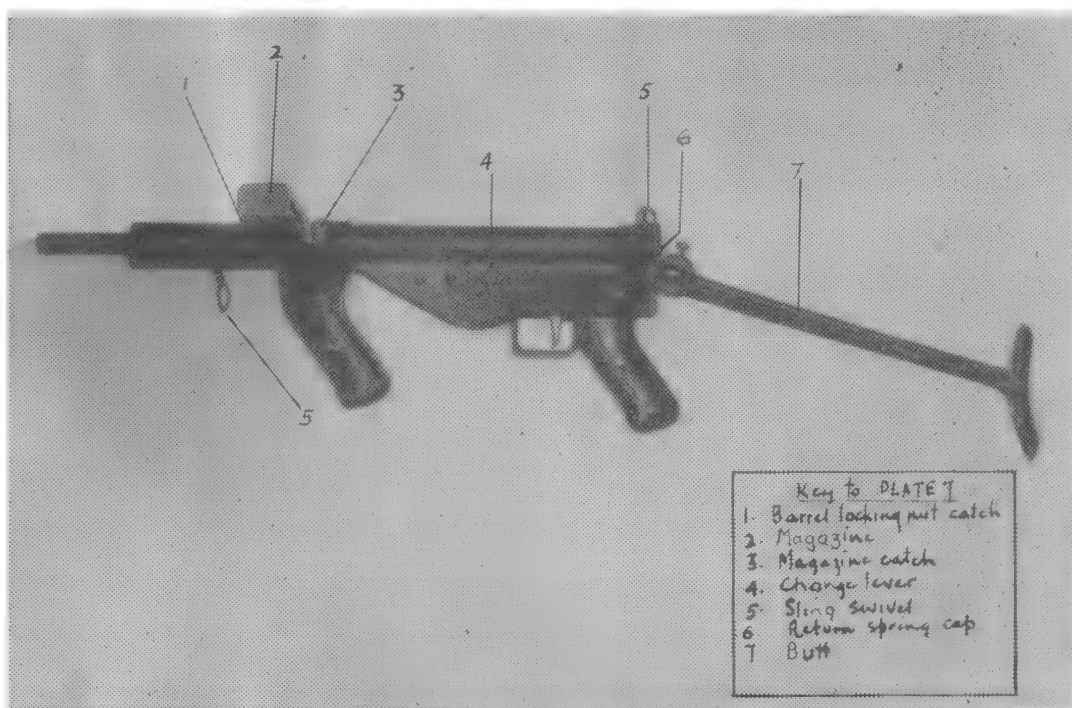


Plate 7 — Austen Machine Carbine Mark 1 (Left Side).



Remove the filler by pressing the flat spring button and lifting off.

To empty the magazine, strip each round in turn from the magazine with the thumb and forefinger.

4. Practice squad. To save time, ten rounds are sufficient at this stage.

### **Loading And Unloading**

5. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating (empty magazine on carbine):

**(a) To Load:**

Hold the carbine with the right hand at the rear grip, forefinger outside the trigger guard, butt under the arm and muzzle pointing downward at an angle of 45 degrees. Pull back the cocking handle with the left hand and move it into the safety slot on the body. Take the magazine in the left hand with the groove to the rear and insert it into the magazine housing on the left side of the carbine and press it fully home. Grasp front grip with left hand.

**(b) Carriage:**

The carbine can be carried:—

(i) Slung over the shoulder.

(ii) At the trail, like a rifle.

(iii) In front of the body with the sling round the neck.

**(c) Ready position:**

When the enemy is likely to be met, bring the weapon close in to the right side, butt under arm and barrel pointing to the front. Release the cocking handle from the safety slot, grasp the front grip with the left hand and put the forefinger of the right hand on the

**(d) To Unload:**

Return to the loading position. Depress the catch on the magazine housing with the thumb and remove the magazine. Replace it in the equipment.

Holding the cocking handle with the left hand, press the trigger and ease the moving parts forward under control. Recock and repeat this action.

6. Practice squad on words of command, "LOAD," "SLUNG POSITION" etc., "READY," "UNLOAD."

**7. Note:**

If the working parts have been eased forward with a round in the chamber, it may be fired if the AUSTEN is suddenly jerked or the cocking handle is released prematurely during cocking. The cocking handle must be in the safety slot before a filled magazine is put on the weapon.

## LESSON 2

### FIRING AND IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Stores:** Machine carbines with slings } one per man  
Magazines } if available  
Three Fig 2 targets.

**Preparation:** A piece of flannelette (4 x 4 inches) folded twice to form a square will be inserted into the body of each carbine and pressed over the breech.

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions.

**Revision:** Lesson 1 (Loading ready position, unloading).

#### Firing Positions

1. Explain:

- (a) There are two positions for firing the carbine:—
  - (i) From the shoulder using the sights.
  - (ii) From the waist by sense of direction.
- (b) The position used will depend on the situation. Fire from the waist only when speed is vital; if time permits, fire from the shoulder using the sights. In extreme emergency, fire can be applied from the waist on the move but, if it is possible to halt momentarily, greater accuracy will result.

#### Types Of Fire

2. Explain and demonstrate:

The type of fire can be selected by positioning the change lever on the trigger mechanism housing. By pressing the side marked "A" the carbine will produce bursts or automatic fire; by pressing the side marked "R," it will fire single shots.

With experience, single shots can be fired with the change lever set at "A," thus enabling it to be kept permanently in this position. When in contact with the enemy, the carbine should always be set at "A," the firer producing single shots until the necessity or opportunity for automatic fire presents itself. Bursts should be of two or three rounds only.

3. Practice squad in setting change lever.

#### Firing

4. Firing from the shoulder using the sights:

(a) Explain and demonstrate from ready position:

The butt is brought firmly into the shoulder and, if the correct grip is maintained with both hands, the elbows come naturally into a suitable and comfortable position. The enemy should be faced squarely. Maximum speed in engaging a succession of targets will be obtained by swinging the body from the waist.

Aim at the centre of the target and fire single shots or short bursts depending on the situation.

When the enemy has been dealt with, continue the advance at the ready position; if the enemy is not likely to appear again, put the cocking handle in the safety recess. In either case, change the magazine for a full one if necessary.

- (b) Practice squad at the halt and on the move, emphasizing the need for speed into action. Words of command are: "LOAD," "READY," "FIRE," "ADVANCE" etc. Recock each time after firing.

Note — See PLATE 3 (OWEN) for example of position.

#### 5. Firing from the waist by sense of direction:

- (a) Explain and demonstrate from ready position:

Correct holding will have been taken up in the ready position. The position of the body should be square to the front and balanced evenly on both feet. Swing the body from the waist when engaging a succession of targets.

The firer must concentrate on the centre of the target and, on firing, attempt to observe the strike of his shots and make any necessary correction to the alignment of the barrel.

- (b) Practice squad at the halt and on the move. Words of command are : "LOAD," "READY," "TARGET RIGHT" etc., "FIRE," "MISS LOW" etc., "ADVANCE." During practice the instructor must check direction in which barrels are pointing.

Note — See PLATES 4, 4A and 4B (OWEN) for example of position.

#### Immediate Action

##### 6. Explain:

The simple construction and mechanism of the carbine combined with correct handling and maintenance tend to make stoppages rare and easily adjusted.

When a magazine is emptied, the carbine will stop with the moving parts FORWARD.

##### 7. Explain and demonstrate, using an empty magazine on the carbine:

If the carbine stops firing, recock, turn the carbine slightly and look into the ejection opening. (See Note.)

- (a) If the magazine is empty, change it and continue firing.
- (b) If there are rounds in the magazine and there is no apparent obstruction, push it fully home and continue firing.
- (c) If there is an obstruction, turn the carbine to the right and shake vigorously; the round or empty case should fall out. If it does and the chamber is clear, continue firing.
- (d) If the obstruction is still there or there is a live round in the chamber, partially remove the magazine and clear the obstruction by shaking or the live round by firing. Cock, if necessary, re-engage the magazine and continue firing.
- (e) If there is no visible reason for the stoppage, examine the bolt face and body for the probable presence of a loose cap or other obstruction. If found, remove and continue firing. Should nothing be located, examine chamber and bore. A loose cap can be detected normally by inserting the right forefinger in the ejection opening and moving it across the face of the bolt and breech.

(f) If a stoppage should occur on the carbine and the action cannot be recocked by pulling back the cocking handle by hand, the following immediate action will be carried out:—

- (i) The carbine will be held firmly with the butt pressed against the body, the barrel pointing towards the target. This position will be maintained until the stoppage is cleared.
- (ii) Remove magazine. There may be a live round left in the chamber.
- (iii) Place a pullthrough round the cocking handle, pull sharply to the rear keeping the mechanism under control and turn the cocking handle into the safety slot.
- (iv) Examine the chamber and shake out of the ejection opening the empty case or other obstruction.
- (v) Should there be a live round still in the chamber, point the carbine towards the target and fire from the hip.
- (vi) Having made sure that the carbine is now clear, replace magazine and go on firing.

8. Practice squad, varying the order of stoppages as progress is made. Words of command are:—

"CARBINE FIRES ALL RIGHT," "CARBINE STOPS," "MAGAZINE EMPTY" or "ROUNDS IN MAGAZINE" or "OBSTRUCTION . . . CLEAR" or "LIVE ROUND IN CHAMBER" etc., "CARBINE FIRES ALL RIGHT."

9. Note:

In darkness, feel inside opening when gun stops and after shaking to clear obstruction.





## LESSON 3

### STRIPPING AND ASSEMBLING, CLEANING

Stores: Machine carbines }  
Magazines } one per man if available  
Pullthroughs }  
Flannelette }  
Gauze }  
Oil }

**Preliminaries:** Safety precautions.

Name main parts as they are stripped (see PLATES 8 and 9).

#### Stripping And Assembling

1. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:

(a) **Stripping:**

Before any part is stripped and again after assembly, the carbine will be cocked and working parts eased forward under control.

Press in the stud on the recoil spring housing and slide the butt off downward, ensuring that the return spring cap does not spring out.

Remove return spring cap. Hold the carbine horizontal, draw back the cocking handle and remove the return spring casing assembling from the bolt. Then remove the bolt.

Depress and hold depressed the barrel locking nut catch on the magazine holder and unscrew the locking nut. Remove the barrel.

The following parts will now have been stripped (see PLATES 8 and 9):—

Butt  
Return spring cap  
Return spring casing assembly  
Bolt  
Barrel and barrel nut  
Body

No further stripping will be done except by unit armourer.

(b) **Assembling:**

Replace the barrel, ensuring that it engages in its keyway. Depress barrel locking nut catch and screw in locking nut until all thread is taken up. Turn back slightly and release the catch which allows the teeth to engage with the pawl. Then, with the teeth engaged, tighten nut with firm hand pressure, the teeth of the nut clicking as they engage with the pawl. Avoid unnecessary use of the "click" so that damage to the locking teeth is reduced to a minimum.

Hold the carbine horizontal, insert the bolt in the body and place the front end of the return spring casing assembly correctly into the bolt. Keeping the trigger pressed, slide the bolt completely forward. Attach the return spring cap.

Plate 8 — Austen Machine Carbine Mark 1 (Stripped — Left Side).





Plate 9 — Austen Machine Carbine Mark 1 (Stripped — Right Side).

Hooking the forefinger of the left hand around the back-sight, press in the return spring cap with the left thumb and slide butt into position from below. Release pressure on the cap.

(c) **Notes:**

- (i) When folding or unfolding the butt, the release button must be pressed before any pressure is exerted on the butt arms.
- (ii) The shoulder plate of the butt should be given a slap with the open hand to fold or open it.
- (iii) Never drop the bolt into the body.

2. Practice squad in stripping and assembling.

### **Stripping The Magazine**

3. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:

(a) **To strip:**

Press in the stud on the bottom plate and slide off the plate, controlling the spring as it comes out. Remove spring and platform.

(b) **To assemble:**

Replace the platform and spring and slide on the bottom plate until the stud engages in the hole in the plate. A slight tap with the hand will assist this action.

4. Practice squad.

### **Cleaning**

5. Explain and demonstrate, squad imitating:

Strip the carbine as taught. Clean the bore, using pull-through and flannelette (4 x 3 inches). Wire gauze should only be used when absolutely necessary. When the bore is clean, oil it using flannelette (4 x 3 inches).

Clean and oil the chamber, using the weight of the pullthrough or flannelette wrapped round it.

Clean and oil thoroughly the remaining parts, paying particular attention to:—

Face of the bolt  
Inside the body  
The ejector  
Exterior of return spring casing.

Before firing, it is preferable to dry all parts of the carbine with the exception of the interior of the return spring casing. This should be lightly oiled through the hole at the rear of the casing. The carbine will function satisfactorily whether dry or oily but, under dusty conditions, the working parts should be dry to ensure correct functioning.

Clean magazines with an oily rag; then use a dry rag on platform and interior. Test in magazine housing for fit.

6. Practice squad.

7. **Notes:**

The use of anti-corrosive oil (Oil "A") in the bore after firing will reduce the necessity for continual cleaning. This oil should also be applied to the face of the bolt after firing.



The right arm of the butt carries a cleaning rod, easily removed when the butt is folded. This rod can be used to clean the bore when the barrel is assembled to the carbine or when the pullthrough is not available. When using the rod, ensure that flannelette covers the forward end. With barrel removed, if using the cleaning rod in lieu of pullthrough, the rod will be inserted from the breech end. With barrel assembled, care should be taken that the rod does not damage the bolt face; the carbine should first be cocked and set to "safe" before introducing the rod.

The left arm of the butt carries a screwdriver.

### **Action During And After Gas Attack**

**8. Explain:**

**(a) During gas attack:**

Keep carbine well oiled and move working parts at frequent intervals.

**(b) After gas attack:**

If splashed with nerve or blister gas, the carbine must be decontaminated before cleaning as follows:—

Rub ointment into hands. Strip the carbine and remove gross contamination with a damp swab or cotton waste. If petrol or paraffin is available, swab down the metal portions. If neither is available, apply ointment and wipe off after 20 minutes. Oil the carbine thoroughly and apply ointment to hands.

**9. Question squad.**

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## **Appendix A**

### **PROGRESSIVE WEAPON TRAINING**

1. The object and method of conducting progressive weapon training are given in Infantry Training, Volume 1, Infantry Platoon Weapons Pamphlet No. 3 — Rifle and Bayonet (All Arms), 1948, and should be studied before embarking on this stage of training with the machine carbine.

2. The following lessons have been arranged as examples for use during OWEN Machine Carbine training. Instructors can readily adapt them for use with the AUSTEN.

## PWT 1

### LESSON 1 — DESCRIPTION, MAGAZINE FILLING, LOADING AND UNLOADING

**Stores:** Machine carbines, magazines, empty cases, squad blackboard and chalk.

Time	Phase	Notes for instructors
0-2	<b>Preliminaries:</b>	Safety precautions.
2-5	<b>Revision:</b> Remind squad of:— Number of rounds filled into magazine. Method of filling. Sequence of actions in loading. Methods of carrying. Ready position. Sequence of actions in unloading.	
5-20	<b>Practice:</b> Magazine filling. Loading and unloading. Ready position. Fixing bayonets.	Points to note:— Correct position for magazine filling. Rounds counted and kept clean. Correct sequence for loading and unloading. Correct use of safety slide. Method of carriage.
20-30	<b>Test:</b> As for practice.	Check for sequence of actions and quick and accurate handling. Conduct individually and allot points.
30-40	<b>Competition:</b> Teams of three. For each team 10 empty cases and magazines on ground. Owen on ground, 20 yards in front. On order "GO," No. 1 fills magazine and doubles forward with it. No. 2 takes over, loads and adopts ready position. No. 3 takes over, doubles back to starting point, unloads and empties magazine.	Team with fastest time allotted 10 points. Points deducted for errors in handling. Can be made an individual test.
40-45	<b>Summary</b>	Summarise main points.

## PWT 2

### LESSON 2 — FIRING AND IMMEDIATE ACTION

**Stores:** Machine carbine and magazine for each man.  
Cover (natural or improvised).  
One Fig. 5 and one Fig. 2 target.

Time	Phase	Notes for instructors
0-2	<b>Preliminaries:</b>	Safety precautions and class arrangements.
2-6	<b>Revision:</b> Remind squad of:— Firing positions. Types of fire. Firing. Immediate action.	
6-16	<b>Test:</b> Firing positions and firing. Immediate action.	Check for correct position, use of change lever, correct sequence of IA and quick, accurate handling. Speed and accuracy of applying IA. Allot individual points.
16-22	<b>Practice:</b> As for Test.	Practice those points which were badly done in Test.
22-40	<b>Competition:</b> Teams of three. No. 1 advances and, when target (Fig. 2) indicated, engages from waist; then performs IA for empty mag. No. 2 advances and, when target (Fig. 5) indicated, engages from shoulder making use of cover; then performs IA for loose cap in body. No. 3 advances, and, when targets (Figs. 2 and 5) indicated, engages from waist and then from shoulder, making use of cover; then performs IA for live round in chamber.	Allot points for each team. Deduct points if cover not used correctly, if shooting is slow, handling faulty and IA not correctly applied.
40-45	<b>Summary.</b>	Summarise main points.

## PWT 3

### LESSON 3 — STRIPPING, ASSEMBLING, CLEANING

Stores: Machine carbines and magazines.  
Cleaning materials.

Time	Phase	Notes for instructors
0-2	<b>Preliminaries:</b>	Safety precautions and class arrangements.
2-5	<b>Revision:</b> Remind squad of:— Precaution before stripping. Sequence of stripping and assembling. Method of cleaning bore, chamber and working parts. Method of decontamination.	Check correct sequence of stripping and assembling.
5-10	<b>Test:</b> Stripping of carbine and magazine.	Award points for correct handling.
10-25	<b>Practice:</b> Cleaning of carbine and before firing by teams, instructor supervising. General knowledge questions on care and cleaning.	Practice those points which were badly done in Test. Inspect carbines when finished and criticise if necessary. Encourage questions on maintenance and clear up doubtful points.
25-40	<b>Competition:</b> Carbines, magazines and cleaning materials laid out. Squad to clean carbine and magazine. No. 1 assembles carbine and magazine.	Allot points to teams depending on correctness of actions. Not a speed test. May be time to change men over.
40-45	<b>Summary.</b>	Summarise main points.